WORKFORCE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF VENTURA COUNTY



JUSTICE-INVOLVED POPULATION OF VENTURA COUNTY

There are 34,000 Justice-Involved individuals in Ventura County and an estimated 42,000 formerly incarcerated individuals, bringing the County's overall P2E eligible population to **76,000** (9% of the County's overall population.)

PRIORITY CHALLENGES FOR VENTURA COUNTY

- Limited housing and barriers to housing for those with a record
- Limited access to residential drug treatment and detox facilities
- Limited agencies and CBOs that provide direct employment placement
- Limited first opportunity employers and those willing to hire Justice-Involved

VISION

In order to address existing challenges and improve long-term outcomes for Justice-Involved individuals, it is important to not only increase the number of career education, job placement, and earn and learn opportunities available to this population, but to also enhance and provide increased access to supportive services such as mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and housing assistance. Listed below are the Big ideas

P2E PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW

- CONTRACT WITH CBOs FOCUSED ON DIRECT EMPLOYMENT & PLACEMENT to ensure gainful employment and a continuum of care into the community. Work with AJCC partners and expand CBO services to inmates from incarceration through reentry to facilitate a continuum of care as they transition back into the community
- EXPAND FOOD HANDLER CREDENTIAL PROGRAM MODEL AT TODD ROAD JAIL with existing provider and use model to develop a Landscaping and Maintenance Work Crew and Expand Employer Partnerships. Establish an industry-recognized credential in landscaping and maintenance for the grounds keeping work crew at Todd Road Jail.
- DEVELOP A MANDATORY PRE-RELEASE RESOURCES FILE & TOOLKIT. Pilot a program at Ventura County Jails, with STEPS enrollees and potentially with newly contracted CBO partners, to develop a pre-release resources file and toolkit (available in print and online).
- **PROVIDE MICRO-CONTRACTS TO SOBER LIVING HOUSES.** Expand housing for more Justice-Involved people by providing micro-contracts to sober living houses and allowing Probation and Parole to refer and pay for clients' housing for 90 days, regardless of probation status.
- FORMALIZE A VENTURA COUNTY REENTRY COUNCIL that can act as a neutral convener and regular incubator for collaboration, planning, and reflection. This council will facilitate partnerships between public agencies, industry, community-based organizations, and other local organizations so that momentum developed during the P2E planning phase is not lost
- **DEVELOP A REGISTERED PRE-APPRENTICESHIP & APPRENTICESHIP** in Manufacturing Program for Justice-Involved individuals that prepares people for entry-level jobs as an assembler on up.
 - Arrow bullets are the initial programs to be implemented subject to P2E funding